

Preserving Nature's Flowers

HOW TO DISPLAY THEM

\$1.00



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Foreword . . .

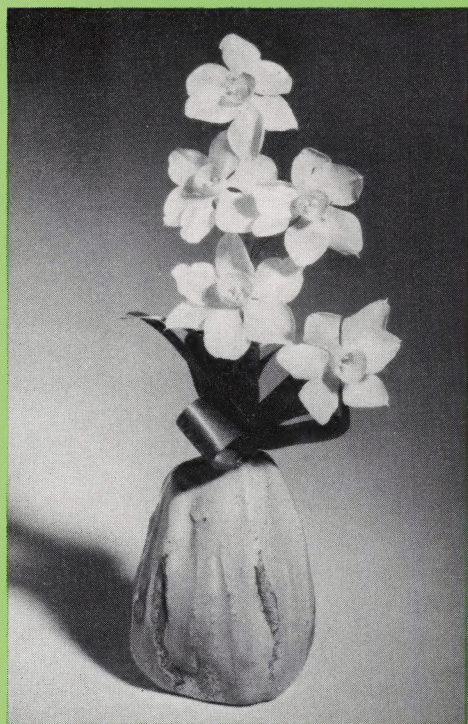
Abracadabra! Just like magic you can bring a whole wonderland of pretty flowers into your home --- flowers that will bloom faithfully for all seasons. Just master a few simple "tricks", *you'll find all the secrets right in this book*, and transform real outdoor flowers into preserved beauties that will keep indefinitely. You'll be amazed at the natural-like character of preserved flowers. Their colors are vibrant, and their shapes are every bit as real as when they were in the garden. Take another look at the beautiful flower arrangement on the cover. It was photographed in November and snow could be seen thru the windows of the lovely Argyle home. Yet the flowers had been picked in the summer. Think of it!

Just think of the endless possibilities of creating unique bouquets and decorations with a bevy of preserved flowers! Wouldn't tall bunches of brightly colored preserved Poppies bring a cheerful note into your kitchen? Or, what about a nosegay of pressed shy violets neatly mounted and framed to give as a remembrance to a friend who is feeling "under-the weather". Little wicker baskets and trinkets brimming with bright preserved flowers, unusual flower-trimmed folders for stationery, and literally "bunches" of other projects are easy for you to make.

Come, venture onward and discover a complete treasure trove of charming preserved flower projects --- easily made without any hocuspocus at all!



When winter's frosty cold chills the air, Charlotte Argyle keeps the warm, sunny spirit of spring alive in her Salt Lake City, Utah home with her vast and fanciful collection of preserved flowers. Her stock of individual blossoms, which she keeps in her basement, has the appearance of a summer garden --- see bottom of page 23. You will find several of Mrs. Argyle's lovely inspirations and creations "blooming" on some of the color pages of this book.



These lovely springtime Narcissus were preserved in silica gel.

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Forever Yours...

METHODS OF PRESERVING FLOWERS

The "miracle" of preserving flowers is as old as time, yet it is also as contemporary and fresh as a springtime daisy --- unfolding a world of breathtaking excitement.

There are several methods of preserving flowers so they are forever yours. Everybody has had the fun of pressing a flower flat in a book. There are two principle methods of preserving flowers so they keep their three-dimensional shape. Some flowers can be hung up-side down and dried satisfactorily while others must be covered with a desiccant. A few words about each method will enable you to decide how to make "really reals" really yours.

PRESSING FLOWERS

An old-time favorite method for preserving flowers is to slip them between the pages of a book and press them flat. They help us recapture pleasant moments in time which have since become fleeting memories --- ah, nostalgia!

While this method is not recommended for thick and bulky flowers, it is ideal for pansies, violets, buttercups, and similar flowers. The technique for pressing flowers begins on page 14 with many interesting projects following.

COVERING FLOWERS WITH DESICCANT

One way to retain a flower's natural three-dimensional shape and fresh-picked appearance is by the dehydration method. There are several different types of desiccants all of which are hand-sifted onto the flowers, burying them completely. Among the desiccant agents used are: silica gel, sand, borax and corn meal, sawdust, talcum powder, cornstarch, uniodized salt, alum, and powdered pumice. We have used silica gel or oolitic sand on the flowers shown in this book. We used silica gel in our step-by-step instructions, beginning on page 4. These instructions can be adapted to other desiccant materials; the drying time will vary, so experimentation is necessary. The flowers are removed from the desiccant after they are completely dried and preserved. Most of the desiccant agents are reusable so you can reap a treasure trove of life-like flowers to use and cherish by using the



A victorian nosegay of bright flowers is arranged in a small, interesting brass box. This would make a lovely hostess gift.

material again and again. We will discuss three of the desiccants so you can decide what to use.

1. SILICA GEL

As a growing need for a substance to dehydrate certain products in humid weather increased, an advanced scientific chemical compound, called "silica gel" was developed. It has been within the last decade that silica gel was introduced as a drying agent for flowers --- and it is constantly gaining popularity in this field.

Silica gel, used in preserving flowers, is very light in weight and is a mixture of fine white granules and a small amount of coarser blue granules. The blue "Tel-Tale" granules turn white or pink when the compound has absorbed its maximum amount of moisture. To reactivate the silica gel, simply put it in a shallow pan and place it in a 300 degree oven until the "Tel-Tale" turns blue again. Immediately place it in an airtight container and allow it to cool before using. Always keep silica gel in an airtight container since it will absorb moisture from the air.

Silica gel dehydrates flowers rapidly; the process

Continued on page 22



Preserving Flowers In A Desiccant

Get Ready -----

For An Adventure In Flower Preserving

MATERIALS NEEDED

Desiccant of your choice. We will be
using silica gel

Container for preserving desiccant

18 to 26 ga. green, covered wires

1"x 12"x 36" block of white foam

Wire cutters

Green floral tape

Orange stick

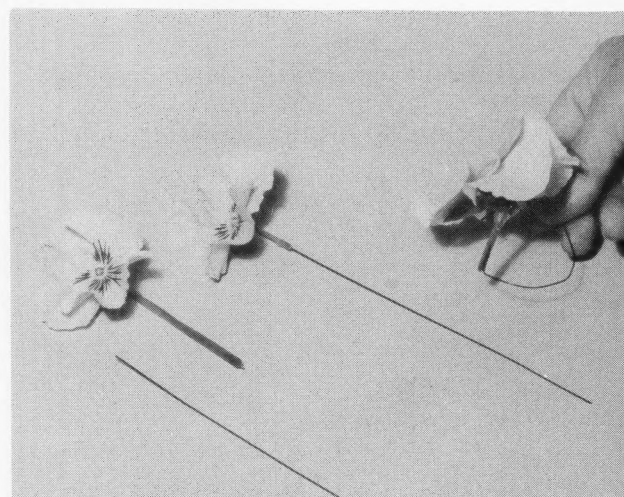
Green spray paint

Camel-hair brush

Clear-drying glue

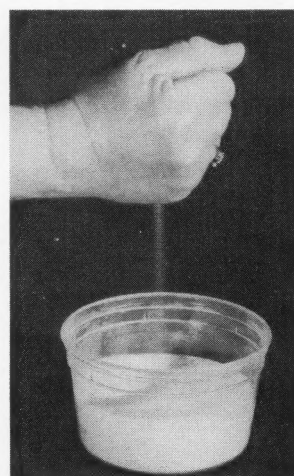
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select a container with a tight-fitting lid for preserving flowers in a desiccant. It should be large enough to hold a flower without crowding. There should be a minimum of 1" clearance at the sides and bottom and 1" of material on top. There should be only one layer of flowers in a container. Flat containers such as cake tins, 1 or 2 lb. coffee cans or plastic boxes work quite well. A beginner should work with a single blossom in a small container. When you are experienced, you can place several flowers of one kind in a large container. Since the preserving time varies with different types of flowers, do only one kind in a container at a time.



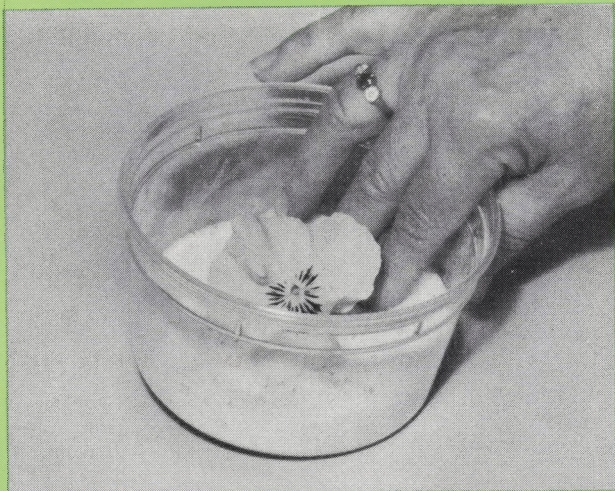
2. Gather fresh, dry flowers which are perfectly shaped, unblemished and at their color prime. Never cut more than you can handle at one time. A pansy or similar flower is good to practice covering with desiccant since it is flat and does not contain too much moisture. Prepare the flower by cutting the blossom from the stock leaving an 1" stem on the flower. Push a 6" length of 22 to 26 ga. green, covered wire into the short stem. Bend the wire into a loop at the point it attaches to the stem. This forms a little stand which will hold your flower upright while you are working. The wire will be straightened out, after the flower is preserved, and act as the stem.

Let's practice handling desiccant before covering a flower with it.



3. Before covering your first flower, it is wise to practice handling the material by scooping up a handful and allowing it to run in a slow, fine stream from the bottom of your closed hand. By exerting and relaxing the pressure on your hand you will have control over the amount of flow. Practice tipping your hand

one way and then the other for dispersing this flow. Keep your hand no more than 3" to 4" above the container so the flow is in a fine stream. When you can control the stream of desiccant, you are ready to cover your flower without disturbing the natural position of any of its petals or stamens.

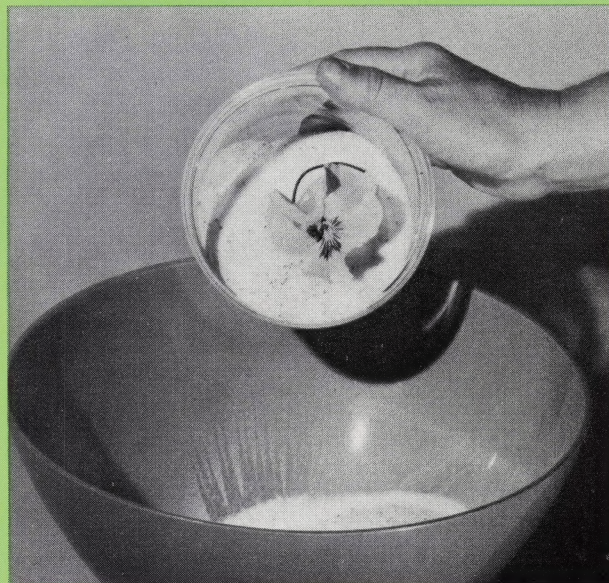


4. Cover the bottom of the container with an 1" to 2" layer of desiccant. Push the wire stand with the flower face up in the container so the bottom petals rest on the desiccant. Most kinds of flowers are placed in the container face up. A few flowers, such as cosmos, are placed face down on a small mound of desiccant. In this book we will work with flowers face up.

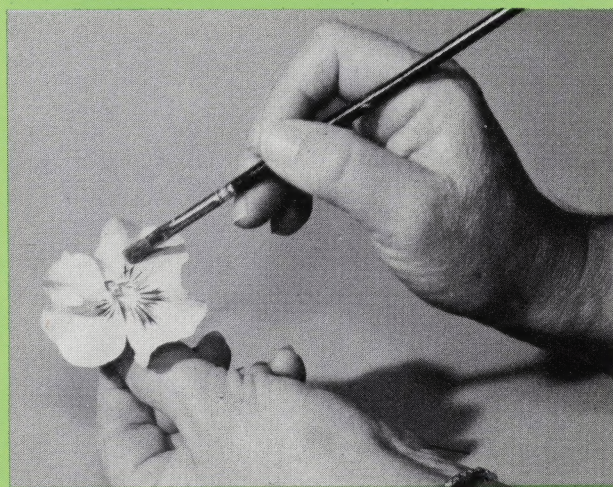


5. Carefully cover the flower with desiccant. This is done by allowing the desiccant to flow from your hand around the inside edge of the container --- not on the flower. When the desiccant has built up 1" to 2" high, gently tip the container in all directions. This will level the desiccant so it trickles around the base of the flower. Continue in this manner until the desiccant supports the flower. So the flower is not moved out of shape, by the desiccant, build the material under the petals before sifting material on top of the petals. Keep the surface of the desiccant, in the container, level as you work. A pointed orange stick is helpful for arranging unruly petals. When the flower is covered, add another 1" of desiccant on top.

6. Cover the container tightly so the desiccant doesn't absorb moisture from the air. If the lid is loose, it can be taped closed. Label the container with the date and the flower inside and set it where it won't be disturbed during the preserving process. Flowers are preserved when the moisture has been removed from them. Most flowers covered with silica gel take three to four days while flowers preserved in sand will take a couple weeks. Don't peek any sooner. To check, uncover a little of the flower and feel to see if it has stiffened.



7. To remove the preserved flower from the container, slowly and gently pour the desiccant off until you can lift the flower out by the wire.



8. Shake off remaining desiccant by holding the flower upside down and carefully tapping the stem against the side of the container. A soft camel-hair brush may be used to remove any fine particles which remain. The broad end of a flat toothpick is helpful in removing any last stubborn bits.

Continued on page 8

Nature's Accents



The nostalgic charm of an old-fashion garden is yours to enjoy with the above nosegay.



The quaint nosegay above features springtime flowers; lilac, daisies and marigolds are included.



The lasting beauty of daisies, roses, marigolds, lilies-of-the-valley and many other garden flowers is captured in the covered jar above.



Delphinium, roses, lilac, peony and hydrangea accent the stunning arrangement above.



Fill an apothecary jar with tiny garden and wild flowers for pure pleasure --- or make floral pictures for heirloom gifts.



Take a bright step towards spring ---
Make a wild flower arrangement.



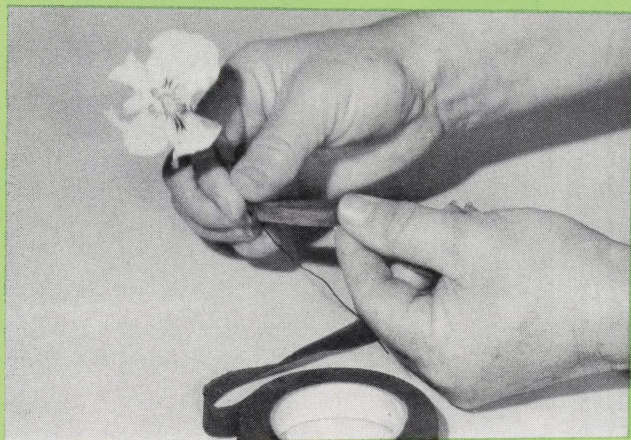
A bright, gay arrangement of nature's lovely marigolds could be "at home" in your home if you'd just make one.

Home Brighteners



What fun! An oval frame with a dome glass makes a perfect setting for a mini-arrangement of preserved flowers.

9. If a petal falls off, don't despair --- simply glue it back with clear-drying glue. Since preserving depletes the flower of moisture a certain amount of shrinkage takes place. This may cause the center to shrink loosening the petals. You may want to reinforce the flower by dripping a little clear-drying glue into the center and base of your flower.

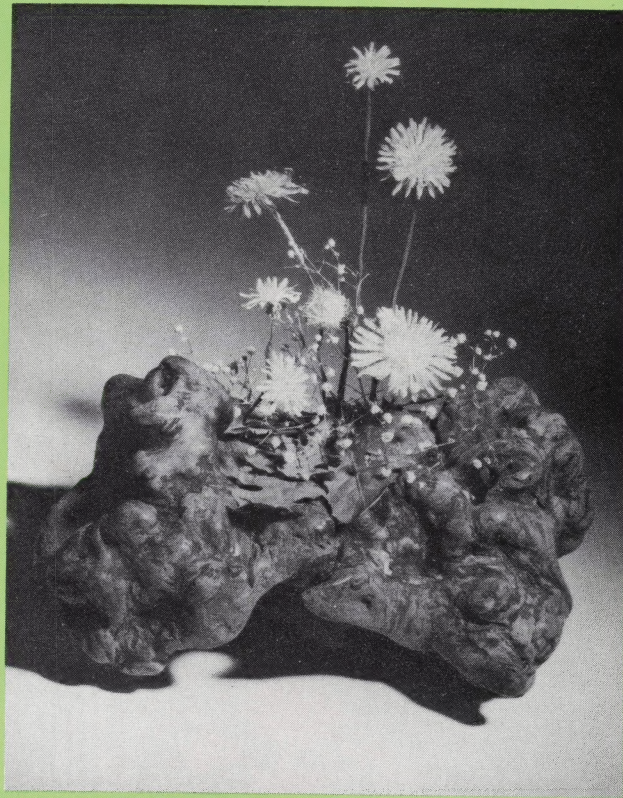


10. Straighten the stem wire and wrap it with green floral tape. Hold the tape tight as you spiral wrap down the wire stem. You can hand paint the tape and flower sepal with acrylic paint if you want them to match in color.



11. Stick the stem wire into a piece of white foam to hold the flower upright until you are ready to use it. Do not allow "stored" flowers to touch each other since they are fragile and may break. Store your flowers where the air is dry. If you're going to keep your preserved flowers for some time place them in an extra room with open containers of desiccant. Mrs. Argyle, of Utah, stores her summer's work in her basement near the heat of the furnace where the air is dry.

12. Since the preserved flowers have been stripped of their stems, extra foliage must be added again for an arrangement. Leaves can be preserved by covering with a desiccant or by treating with glycerin. Unlike flowers, one layer of leaves can be added to another when preserving in a dehydrating material --- allow 1" of desiccant between each layer. *If there is one foliage that is beautiful when preserved, it is maiden hair fern. Be sure to use it.* Please turn to page 10 for a description of treating leaves with glycerin. Leaves treated by this method retain their flexibility and lovely 3-D appearance. Any undesirable color can be corrected with green spray paint.



Bright yellow dandelions look gay and sassy "growing" from an old twisted piece of root.

Flower Colors

For best color results select flowers which are of primary shades. You will find some colors remain quite true, when preserved, but most tend to darken while a few will lighten. It is well to know that color results may vary from flower to flower even though you may pick them off the same plant.

When selecting the color of your flower keep in mind that the color may change during preserving or after a length of time. Usually you can expect these immediate changes:

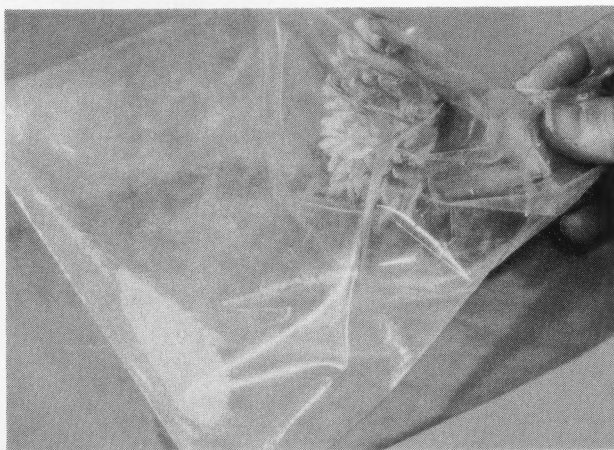
Reddish purple flowers may turn blue in color.
Cerise flowers turn purple.
Rust or bronzes turn brown.
Many whites become creamy in appearance.
Flowers grown in the shade often turn a muddy color
Green foliage becomes dull. Maiden hair fern is the exception; it remains a beautiful green.

STABILIZING FLOWER COLORS

The real purist in the art of flower preserving would never think of adding any artificial color. But time often takes its toll of color and to keep colors bright and true, you can stabilize them with powdered chalk BEFORE the flower is preserved in desiccant.

Grate soft, white and colored chalks or artist pastels to a very fine powder thru a tea strainer. Colors should be mixed to obtain the desired shade and hue of the flower being treated. Add red to white for pink and purple to white for lavender.

Put the powdered chalk in a plastic bag which is large enough to hold the blossom. Place the flower blossom in the bag, allowing the stem to extend out the top. Hold the bag closed and shake to cover the flower with chalk dust. See the photo below.



Remove the flower from the bag and shake off all excess chalk. It is the color pigment you want on the flower; not the dust. If a white flower has a yellow center, you will have to apply yellow powdered chalk with a brush after the white has been applied.

You can also stabilize or change the color of a flower by dipping it in a liquid dye, usually available at a florist.

Random Hints

HANDLE GENTLY

Preserved flowers are fragile. Their moisture has been removed and they become fairly brittle; they shrink and their petals tend to loosen just as fresh flowers do in a few days. Step 9 on the opposite page will help if you have problems. Because they are so fragile place them where they will not be broken.

Excessive humidity causes preserved flowers to droop. If you live in an area where humidity is high plan on arranging your flowers in a covered glass container such as an apothecary jar or glass dome. If the container is sealed with glue the flowers will last for years. Another way to protect from moisture in the air is to spray preserved flowers with a clear, plastic sealer. Be sure it has a dull finish and the flower is clean of desiccant.

RESTORING DAMAGE

If a flower is bent or twisted in the desiccant, hold it over the steam of a tea kettle and quickly rearrange it.

If the center of a daisy looks dried and "cracked" when it is removed from the desiccant, use the pointed end of a tooth pick to fix it. Do this immediately upon removal of the daisy from the desiccant; the thick center is usually still damp. If it is too dry, moisten the center a little before working on it.

SPIKE FLOWERS NEED SUPPORT

To preserve a long spike, such as Delphinium, place it horizontally in the desiccant. Use a couple pieces of notched cardboard to support the long, main stock.

ARRANGING BOUQUETS

Before arranging your flowers in a bouquet, secure a piece of green foam to the bottom of the vase with floral clay. The foam can be hidden with spagnum moss. The wire stems of the flowers will be stuck into the foam. When arranging preserved flowers, handle the stems with long-nose pliers. If an arrangement is top-heavy put some sand in the bottom of the vase. The bouquets of flowers on pages 6, 7, and 12 will give you ideas for arranging your flowers. You may want our book "How To Arrange Flowers" which gives you 22 pages on flower arranging.



Treating Foliage For Permanence

The leaves and foliage are important to any flower arrangement. A florist will add extra foliage when you order a bouquet. Since most of the stem and leaves are stripped before a flower is preserved, a great deal of extra foliage must be added once again when the flowers are arranged.

Foliage preserved by immersing the stems in glycerin will retain their flexibility and will last indefinitely. Different types of foliage react differently, colorwise, to this treatment. If the color is not to your liking, the leaves can be sprayed with paint. Moss green paint is popular.

Not all types of leaves respond favorably to this treatment. Some that do are those with stems which absorb water freely, including: magnolia, oak, beech, boxwood, lemon, maple and sweet gum. It's fun to experiment --- so try different kinds of leaves available in your part of the country.

PROCEDURE

The procedure is easy. Mix a solution of one-third glycerin to two-thirds water. Place in a small-necked jar so evaporation won't be too rapid. The solution should be 4" to 5" deep. Glycerin can be purchased in any drug store.

Use freshly cut branches. Choose branches with leaves that have no blemishes. Slash or crush the woody stem 1" to 2" at the bottom. See Fig. A. Immerse crushed ends in the glycerin solution. Put them in a place that has good air circulation until saturation is complete. You can determine this by the change of color or the appearance of oozing along the edge of the leaves. Some leaves, like Magnolia, may take four weeks or more to obtain the effect you wish, while others may only take a few days. Replenish the water as it evaporates. If small, thin leaves start to droop or wilt, remove them from the solution and hang them upside-down to dry for several days.

Some foliage reacts better when completely immersed in glycerin. Use this method for strands of ivy and similar leaves. Mix a solution of one-part glycerin to one-part water in a plastic container large enough to hold your foliage. Immerse the foliage and weight it down to keep from floating. Allow to soak until two-thirds of each leaf is translucent and darker in color than the rest of the leaf. Remove from the solution and place stems in a pile, on layers of newspaper, to cure. After several days they will be cured. Rinse the leaves in soap suds and then rinse in clear water. Allow to dry and your leaves are ready to use.

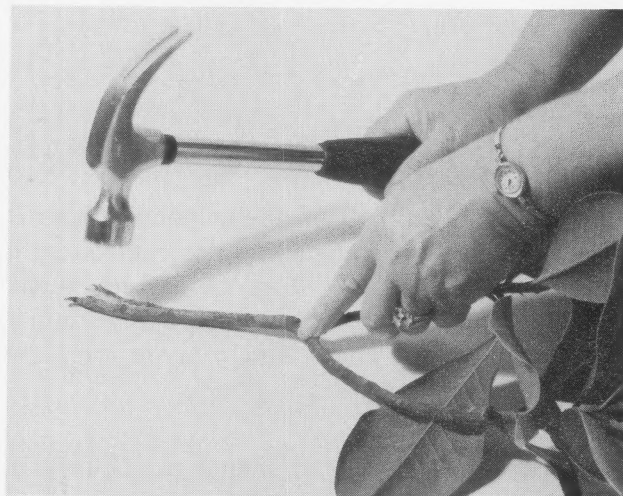


Fig. A Crush the end of the stem with a hammer.

Happy Hang-Up

Treat yourself to a cheerful change --- have a "Happy" Hang-Up; or better yet, have two! Perky little straw flowers and crisp wild oats accent this charming floral plaque which is lovely to make and hang in pairs --- anywhere. See page 19 for a picture in color.

MATERIALS

- 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x $\frac{1}{4}$ " wooden plaque or
a plaque of your choice
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia. wooden drawer knob pull
- Starflowers, pink or color of your choice
- Wild oats, green
- 12" Ribbon, 1" pink grosgrain
- 1" dia. white plastic or brass ring
- White paint Rub-on gold
- White craft glue

DIRECTIONS

1. Saw the drawer knob in half. Glue half to the center of the plaque $\frac{1}{2}$ " up from the bottom. See Fig. A.
2. Spray the plaque and knob white and allow to dry. Be sure the sides are covered with paint.
3. Touch the top edge of the knob with rub-on gold.
4. Cut a slant on each end of a 7" length of ribbon. Fold in half and staple to the back of the plaque so the ribbon hangs from the center bottom as shown in the photo at the right.
5. Put a 5" length of ribbon thru the plastic ring and staple the ends of the ribbon to the back of the plaque at the center top. The ring will be used to hang the plaque.
6. Glue a spray of wild oats and starflowers into the small hole at the top of the knob and your plaque is ready for "happy" hanging. Wild oats and straw flowers are dried by hanging upside-down.



Fig. A Glue half of a drawer knob to the plaque. Notice that the plaque can have a beveled or plain edge.



Complete happy hang-up, bedecked with ribbon trim --- is shown above. Below is a close-up of the wooden plaque with flower arrangement.





Simple Charm

Your adventure in flower preserving will enable you to capture the beauty of the moment in everlasting loveliness. These arrangements, budding, blooming and bursting with color, are in

unusual containers for simple charm. A small brass box holds a Victorian nosegay at the upper left, while a plain wooden box is converted into a shadow box for Marguerites at the upper right. A bouquet of mums is arranged in a wicker sprinkling can at the lower left while a hand-fashioned clay jar displays the Narcissus.



Heirloom Flowers

An antique gold locket, a faded daguerreotype, a crumpled corsage, a lock of silken hair --- who among us doesn't find a certain delight in hiding away sentimental treasures such as these? Pressed flowers are among the most dearly prized of all keepsakes. In many ways nature is like an elusive butterfly --- coloring the outdoors with brightness and joy, but only for a fleeting moment in the endless span of time. You can capture these rare moments by pressing flowers and preserving them in imaginative ways. Best of all, pressing flowers is so simple that you'll want to make a fantastic assortment of charming projects to add to your own sentimental collection or give to bring lasting pleasure. What a fine feeling to know that your handiwork will be enjoyed year after year.

Nature has been unsparing in her generous array of flowers, and almost equally as vast are the variety of projects you can create with them. Take note paper folders, for example. Plain white note paper can easily be beautified by adding a few pressed flowers in a wrap-around folder. You'll find instructions on page 16. Any little note takes on a happy, fervent spirit when delicately shaded blossoms peek thru the transparent paper folder.

Candles with pressed flowers arranged on the wax are still another fanciful decoration. They're fun to give for any special occasion.

Other fun-filled ideas for creating with pressed flowers are blooming throughout many following pages of this book --- all just waiting for your personal sentimental touch!

Tips and Hints For Pressing Flowers



Fig. A Place flowers in a book so they do not overlap.

Some kinds of flowers press better than others. Select those flowers which will lay flat, such as pansies, violas, clover, buttercups, larkspur florets, individual hydrangea blossoms and the like. Thick, pulpy flowers such as dahlias, camellias and mums are bulky and do not press well.

For best results pick flowers, leaves, ferns and grasses in the morning after all the moisture has gone. Always select blooms that are fresh and at their color prime; usually this is just before the flower comes into full bloom. Choose the flowers and leaves which are finely shaped and free of blemishes.

Press your collection as soon as possible. A heavy telephone directory or large catalog is ideal for this purpose. If you place your flowers on every tenth page, starting at the back, thumbing thru the numbers for multiples of ten make it easy to locate your flowers later.

Generally it is better to first separate the blossom from the stem before pressing. If the stem is left on the flower the bulky stem may disfigure the petals. Carefully lay the flowers and the stems and leaves flat inside the book, so they don't overlap or touch each other. See Fig. A. Place the book where it won't be disturbed and weight it down with something heavy.

Most flowers will be dry within a week or two. When you can lift them and they stay perfectly flat and crisp, they are ready to remove from the book. See Fig. B.

You will need a method for storing the pressed flowers until you want to use them. A half dozen hosiery boxes serves well as a flower "bank" for storing flowers, since they stack neatly. Several layers of the same kind of flower can be placed in each box. Mark the box ends with the name of the flower and its color and store in a dry place. Place a little desiccant in the box since humidity can cause flowers to rot. Moth balls will discourage any hungry bugs.

Some colors fade during the pressing process. Many people have tried many things for dyeing and tinting dried flowers. The most successful method of restoring the lost color is the use of pulverized artist pastel chalks, available where artist supplies are sold. To tint your faded flower, grate or shave the pastels to a fine powder, blend the colors as desired and lightly dust the powder onto the petals with a dry brush. See Fig. C. Remove any excess powder after the pigment has colored the petals since it's the color pigment you want on your flower. Here's a word of caution: tinted flowers may "bleed" if sprayed or when glue is applied. Check this if you plan to use these techniques on tinted flowers.



Fig. B Flower is pressed when it is crisp and stays flat when lifted from the book.

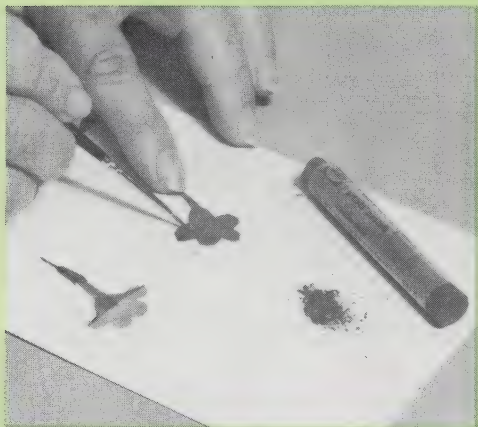


Fig. C Faded flowers can be tinted by brushing powdered pastel chalk on them.

Pressed Flower Picture

It's no fun having your favorite pressed flowers stored out of sight in a box or in the leaves of a book. Get them out to make a floral picture. Have the thrill of having your friends "oh" and "ah" when they see the lovely shapes and colors. A picture is not difficult to make if you follow our instructions.

LET'S START

First consider the shape and size of flower picture you wish to make. Look at the two pictures on this page. One floral arrangement is tall and narrow; actually it is a little over twice as tall as it is wide. The other arrangement is almost square. Also look at the actual size flower arrangement, shown in full-color, on page 18. Why don't you select it as the model for your first picture, adding your own ingenuity as you go along? It is not likely that you will be able to use the same selection of flowers but you can substitute other flowers of the same size and color.

When you have decided on a design, select a picture frame which will enhance it. The frame should not be ornate or it will detract. You may already have an old frame in the closet which you can gold leaf or refurbish by antiquing it. A simple ½" gold-leafed frame was used on our pictures.

When selecting the background for mounting the flowers choose a paper or fabric with minimum texture. Use a white or a soft color since it is very flattering to the flowers. Notice how the white paper background, in the model, shows off the floral design.

A word about mounting the flowers on the background. Glue is not recommended since it may cause discoloration. The flowers are held in place in the frame by the pressure exerted on them between the glass and the background paper or fabric. Velvet, linen, wool or cotton make good backgrounds. The flowers will not stay put on slick materials such as taffeta and silk.

TO MAKE THE PICTURE ON PAGE 18 YOU WILL NEED ---

- 8¼"x 10¾" gold frame with backing board
- Pressed flowers
- 8¼"x 10¾" white paper for background
- Spray adhesive for mounting background
- Thin nails and picture hanger
- Scissors and tweezers





Parchment Note Covers

Dress up your note paper with a beautiful wrap-around cover decorated with pressed flowers. You can make a "parchment-like" cover using two materials found in every home --- waxed paper and facial tissue. White glue is used to fasten the facial tissue to the waxed paper with pressed flowers between. The glue makes the tissue translucent so that the pressed flowers beneath show thru. The flowers have a beautiful, soft appearance and the cover itself looks like parchment paper.

Irene Salter, artist and delightful friend, is most expert in making real pressed flower covers. She was the inspiration for the ones shown here. Starting at the left are: violas, leaves with bottle brush, and then the grasses.

MATERIALS

Pressed flowers and leaves
Waxed paper
Facial paper, white or colored
White glue, water soluble
1" brush Tweezers
Shelf paper and masking tape
Folded note paper
Extra fine gold glitter

DIRECTIONS

1. Open your folded notepaper and lay it on a piece of shelf paper. Pencil around it. Draw a line dividing this rectangle in half. This drawing is used as a guide for placing the flowers.
2. Tape a large piece of waxed paper over the outline. See Fig. A.
3. Dilute white glue; one part glue to one part water. Give the waxed paper a coat of glue. The glue will not cover evenly but there will be enough glue to hold the flowers in place.
4. Arrange the pressed flowers and leaves on the right half. This will be the front of the cover. Tweezers are helpful in handling materials.

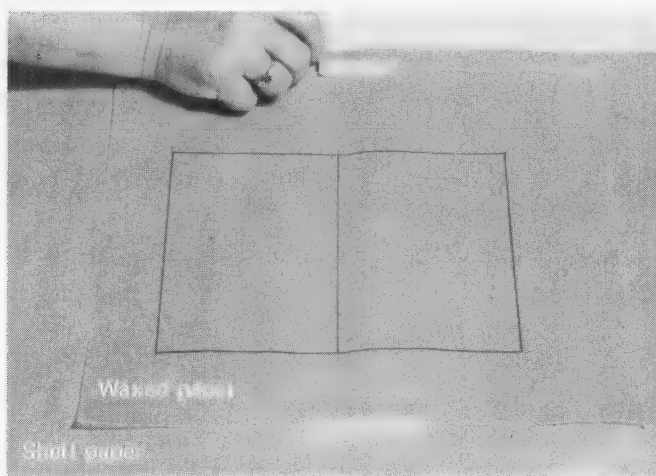


Fig. A Tape waxed paper to shelf paper over outline.

Continued on page 21

Decorated Egg

Decorating a blown-out egg has intrigued ladies for centuries --- so it was only natural that the charm of quaint, pressed flowers should be displayed this way. Eggs trimmed with gay, colorful flowers make treasured tree ornaments or unusual party favors.

MATERIALS

Hen eggs
Pressed flowers and leaves
Clear-drying glue
Decorative braid, approx. 1/4" wide
Gold cord, tiny
Clear acrylic spray



Fig. A Make a hole in the end of the egg.

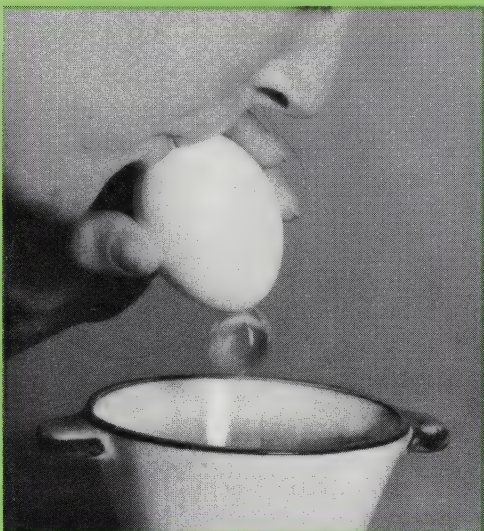


Fig. B Blow out egg.

"BLOWING OUT" AN EGG ----

1. Select a clean, white egg to blow. The egg should be at room temperature. A fresh egg is more difficult to blow than one not so fresh.
2. Make a small 1/16" hole in one end with a large corsage or hat pin. See Fig. A. Make a little larger hole in the opposite end.
3. Pierce and agitate the yolk of the egg with the pin.
4. Place your mouth over the smaller hole and blow the contents of the egg out of the other hole. See Fig. B. (Girls, be sure to remove your lipstick before placing your mouth on the egg.)
5. To rinse out the empty shell, fill it with water and shake. Then blow out the water.
6. Set the egg shell upright in a carton or cup to drain dry.

TO DECORATE EGG ----

1. Glue decorative braid lengthwise around the egg. See Fig. C. This will cover the holes at each end.
2. Glue leaves and flowers onto the front and back section of the egg. Allow the glue to dry.
3. Spray clear acrylic over the decorated egg.
4. Glue or sew about 5" of gold cord to the decorative braid at the top of the egg. It will be a hanger.

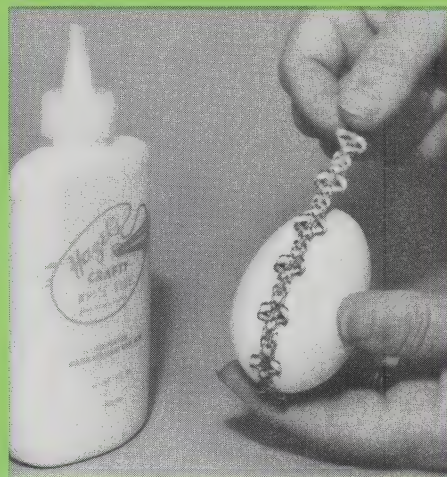


Fig. C. Glue braid around egg.

FOR FUN ----

a sparkling jewel may be glued to the center of each flower for added twinkle.



Instructions for this charming pressed flower picture are on page 15. It is shown full size.

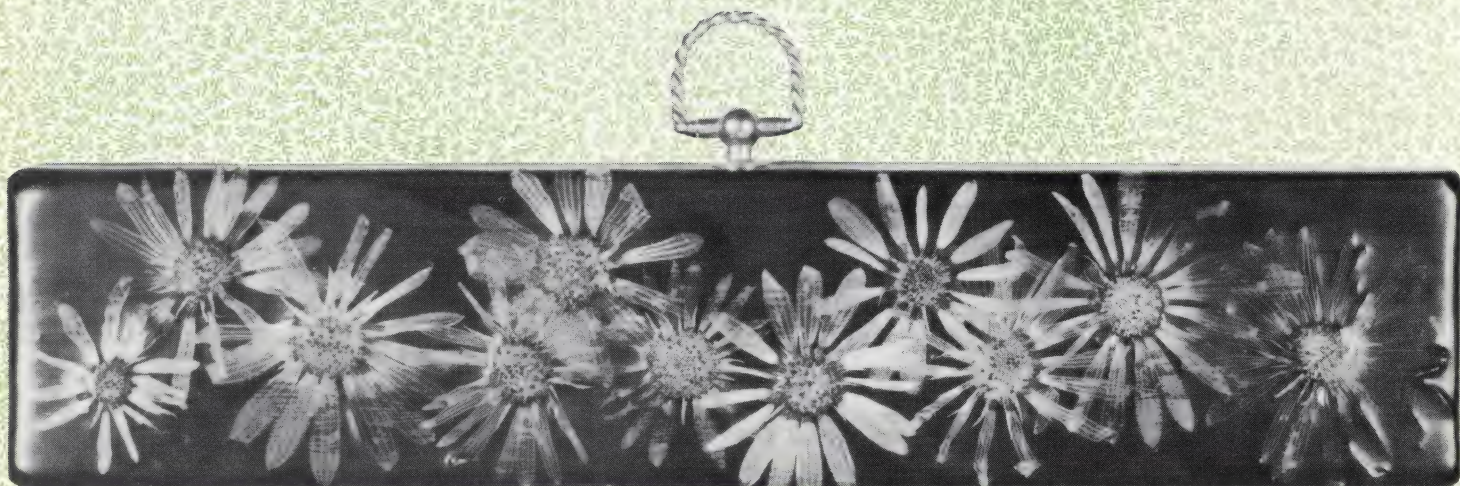


Decorative Accents



These interesting decorative accents can be made by following the instructions in this book. Eggs trimmed with pressed flowers hang

from a Christmas bough in the upper left. A "Happy Hang-Up" wall plaque is shown next to them. A flower-trimmed candle, with old-world charm, is pictured in the upper right-hand corner. Quaint, colorful parchment note folders are shown in the foreground. All of them are yours just for the making --- so why not start today!

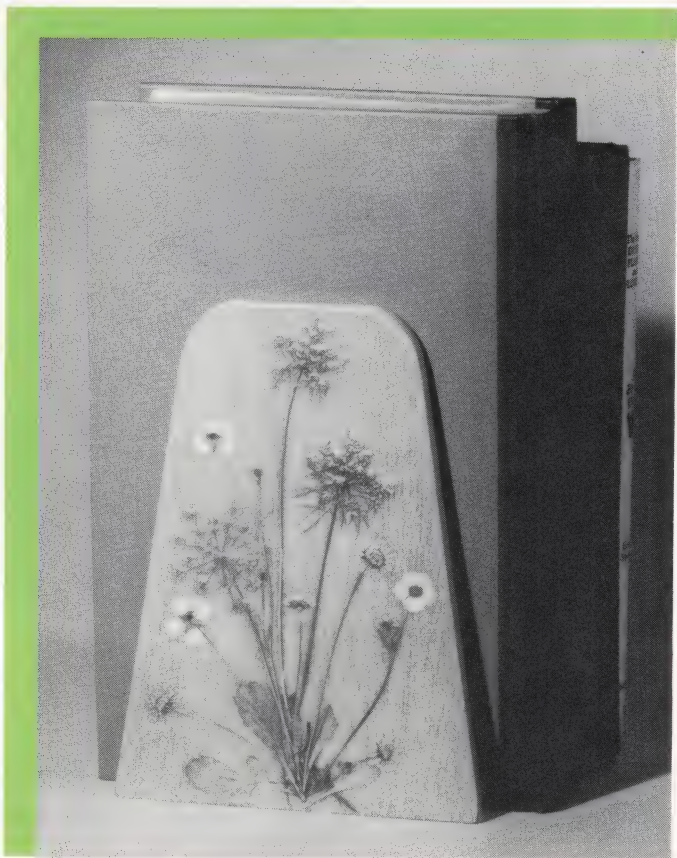


Give-able Gifts

Spring is heralded by these exquisitely hand-fashioned gifts featuring quaint pressed flowers. These gift ideas promise to add distinctive accent to any decor.

DAISY PLAQUE

The unique daisy plaque shown above measures 12"x 2 3/4". The wood was stained dark brown and eleven bright, yellow pressed daisies were arranged and glued onto it. Several coats of decoupage varnish were applied with each coat thoroughly drying before the next was added. The plaque was then lightly sanded in a circular motion, using wet/dry sand paper dampened with soap suds. A decorative ring was secured to the top for the finishing touch.



FLORAL BOOKEND

The interesting bookend, at the left, measures 5"x 6 3/4". The wood was painted a pale blue, then lightly sprayed with a gold over-coat. An arrangement of pressed buttercups, small daisies and Queen Ann's lace was glued to it. Several coats of decoupage varnish were applied with each coat thoroughly drying before the next was added. The plaque was then lightly sanded in a circular motion, using wet/dry sand paper dampened with soap suds.

Flower - Trimmed Candle

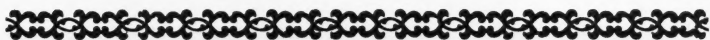
Gentle shades of spring are artfully expressed in this six inch tall wax candle which embraces yellow, wild Buttercups and blue Larkspurs, two of nature's gay flowering representatives. The flowers have been pressed and arranged in varying positions to gracefully encircle the bottom portion of the candle. The brightly colored blossoms and their slender stems seem to be happily dancing within the translucent wax. A tiny skirt of gold paper lace contributes a special elegant trim. This unusual flower candle lends a distinct decorator accent to a family room, study, or bedroom.

MATERIALS

4" dia. round candle, 6" tall
Pressed flowers and leaves: yellow buttercups and blue larkspur or flowers of your choice
Clear-drying glue
Clear acrylic spray
14" gold paper lace trim, ¼" wide

DIRECTIONS

1. Coat the area of the candle to be decorated, with glue.
2. Use tweezers to arrange the pressed flowers on the candle. Place on the damp glue as desired.
3. Allow the glue to dry.
4. Spray with clear acrylic to protect flowers.
5. Glue a narrow gold paper lace trim around the base of the candle for a finishing touch.



PARCHMENT NOTE PAPER, Cont. from page 16

5. Add a small leaf or sprig of pressed flowers to the left half. See Fig. B. This will be the back.
6. Cover the flowers and outlined area with a single-ply of facial tissue.
7. Gently "paint" over tissue with diluted glue. Fill the brush with glue and pat the tissue until it is well soaked. Work from the center of the paper outward to eliminate air bubbles.
8. Optional: Lightly sprinkle tissue with extra fine gold glitter.
9. Allow cover to dry overnight. When dry, remove from the shelf paper.
10. Place the cover between two paper towels and press with an iron, set on wool. The heat of the iron causes the wax to melt onto the flowers. Excess wax soaks into the towels.
11. The lovely cover is finished and ready to make the size of your note paper. Position it over the

outline. Place a ruler on the lines of the rectangle and tear the cover to size. The edge will be uneven like deckle-edged paper. Try tearing the cover along the serrated edge of a waxed paper box for a different effect.

12. Signing your handmade cover with India ink and a small pen makes it a real original!

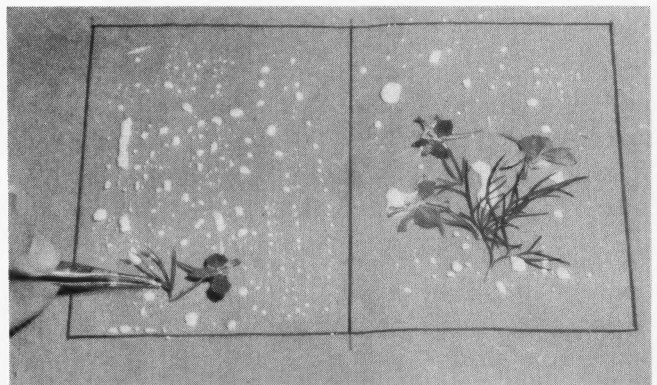
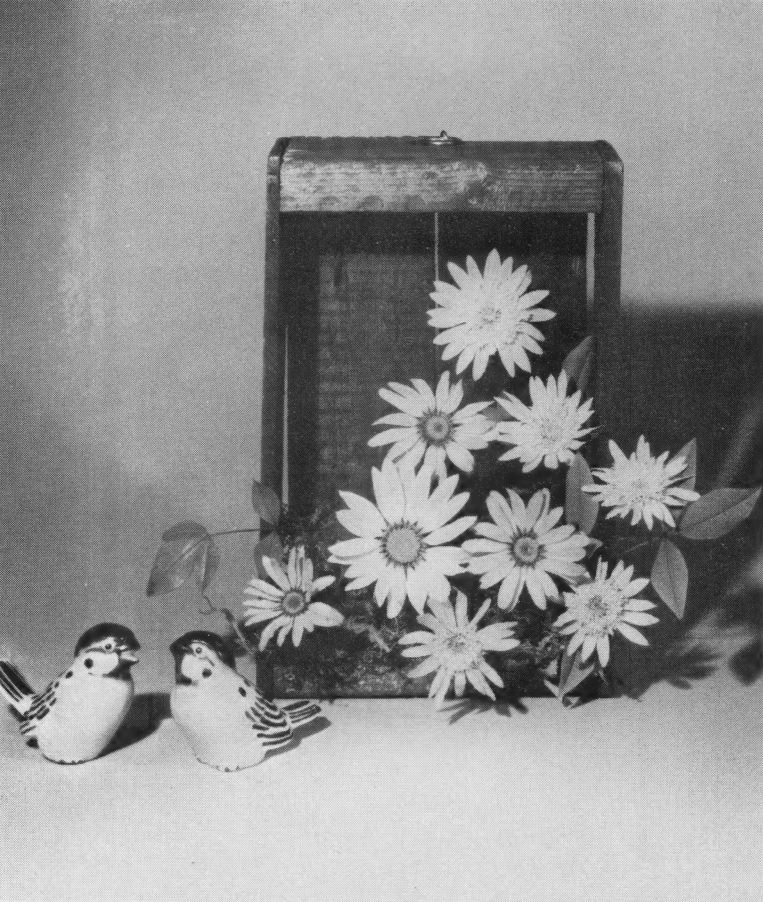


Fig. B Placement of flowers on waxed paper.



Lovely preserved Marguerites are arranged in the shadow box above. The rustic wooden box is 5"x 7¼"x 2½" and was stained a dark brown.

Continued from page 3

taking only three to five days. Step-by-step instructions for its use begin on page 4. It is obtainable at hobby stores, florists or hardware stores. You will probably need five to fifteen pounds, depending on the extent of your flower preserving.

2. SAND

Burying flowers in sand to preserve their loveliness dates back many centuries and has its history rooted in many different countries of the world. Europeans, Indians, and Egyptians alike practiced this ageless art, putting to use a most common, natural, easy-to-obtain material --- sand.

Any kind of sand can be used, but we prefer the oolitic type similar to that found at the Salt Lake in Utah. Regardless of the kind, any sand must be thoroughly cleaned, dried and sifted before using. Even sandbox sand must be prepared.

Wash sand in a bucket with warm soapy water. Rinse several times by agitating the sand in clear water until it is absolutely clean. After each rinse, pour off the water and refill. Dry the sand

in the sun or in a 250 degree oven --- stirring occasionally. Finally the sand must be sifted thru a medium-fine screen to remove any coarse grains or foreign particles which might mar your flowers.

The approximate drying time for flowers in the sand is two weeks. If you use a mixture of two parts borax to one part sand, the drying time is about ten days. As a starter a person will need a five gallon can of sand.

3. BORAX

Any corner grocery offers a variety of substances which can be used as drying agents for preserving flowers. Borax is one of these and is often combined with corn meal and used in the following proportions:

2 parts borax to 1 part white corn meal
OR

1 part borax to 1 part yellow corn meal
Add 3 tbsps. of uniodized salt to each quart of borax mixture. The drying time for these mixtures is ten days to two weeks.



HANGING FLOWERS

If we let our imaginations go we can slip back to the by-gone era of Colonial days when armfuls of flowers were gathered and simply hung upside-down to dry. This easy and simple method is still used today for preserving some flowers such as: goldenrod, yarrow, baby's breath, statice, and Everlasting flowers.

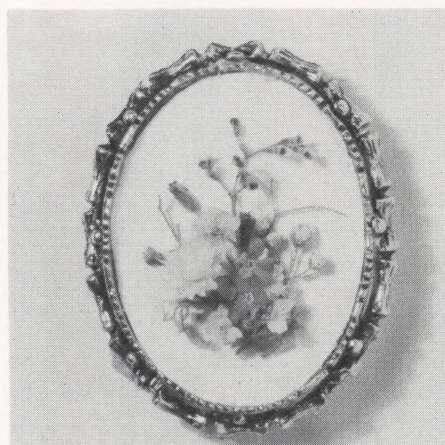
You should pick your flowers when they are at their prime. The stems should be 10" to 16" long. Strip the stems of all unnecessary foliage and tightly tie about six to eight stems together. Hang each bunch upside-down in a dry, warm place, until the flowers are dry and stiff. This usually takes a week to ten days depending on the flower and weather.

DIRECTIONS

1. Trim the plastic dome, with scissors, to fit over the front of the pin.
2. Background For Pin: Trace around the plastic dome onto the heavy white paper. Cut out the oval background. (There are pre-cut mother-of-pearl or ceramic backgrounds available if you prefer to use this type. Be sure they are flat.)
3. Glue the background into position onto the pin. *This was not done in the photo below just so you could see that the pin-back was open in the back.*
4. Place a small drop of clear glue onto the background where you want a flower. Put a flower in place. You will find that tweezers are a great aid in handling the delicate, tiny blossoms.
5. Continue gluing the flowers in place, see Fig. A, until the arrangement pleases you. Add a tiny sprig of spagnum moss at the bottom.
6. Glue the dome over the flower arrangement and your pin is ready to wear or give as an heirloom gift.



Fig. A Glue flowers onto background.



Quaint Victorian Pin

The fleeting beauty of a spring garden is captured forever in this wee treasure "box" of flowers fashioned into a quaint pin. The tiny flowers, artfully placed in a mini-arrangement for a pin, makes a lovely gift.

MATERIALS

Scroll pin, approx. 1½"x 1¾"

Plastic dome, 1½"x 1¾"

Tiny preserved flowers such as
forget-me-nots, baby's breath,
mustard and spagnum moss

Clear-drying glue

Heavy white paper (3"x 5" unlined
index card)



This picture shows about one-third of the preserved flowers stored in the Argyle basement. With their wire

stems pressed into white foam, the flowers appear to be growing. Mrs. Argyle calls them her last summer's work.

Preserving Nature's Flowers

\$1.00



HOW TO DISPLAY THEM



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